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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/697,040

10/31/2003

Nobuo Yaegashi

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RADER FISHMAN & GRAUER PLLC
LION BUILDING
1233 20TH STREET N.W.; SUITE 501
WASHINGTON, DC 20036

EXAMINER

WONG, JEFFREY KEITH

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3714

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

08/06/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/697,040

Applicant(s)

YAEGASHI, NOBUO

Examiner

Jeffrey K. Wong

Art Unit

3709

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 2/20/2007.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-25 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-25 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>2/20/2007, 9/16/2004</u> | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1 - 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Sugimoto et al. (U.S. Patent 6,287,195 B1).

Regarding Claims 1 - 2, Sugimoto discloses a gaming machine comprising a medal insertion slot having an opening for a player to insert a medal for playing a game (fig. 1, elem. 10) including a medal guide projection projecting in a forward direction of the gaming machine and configured to guide the medal to the opening, wherein the medal guide projection comprises: an inner peripheral part configured to be in contact with outer peripheral surface of the medal (fig. 1, elem. 10; where a three dimensional view shows a medal coin insertion device with a forward projecting portion and a slot for inserting a coin disposed at the rear of the inner peripheral surface), and a pair of projection parts disposed away from each other and projecting on top of both ends of the inner peripheral part, and wherein an angle between a ridgeline of one of the projection parts and a horizontal line is configured to be different from an angle between a ridgeline of the other projection part and the horizontal line, where one angle must be larger than the other (fig. 1, elem. 10; where two projection parts on either side of a medal insertion slot are side walls that guide the coin to a slot, and each projection part

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side wall may be at a different height to help a player insert a coin naturally, causing two separate horizontal angles to be formed by a single horizontal reference line).

Regarding Claims 3 - 4, Sugimoto discloses a gaming machine wherein a height of a start point of the ridgeline of one of the projection parts on a side of the opening is configured to be the same as a height of a start point of the ridgeline of the other projection part on the other projection part on a side of the opening, wherein an angle between an upper face of the frontward projection portion and the horizontal line is configured to be substantially equal to the angle between the ridgeline of the other projection part and the horizontal line (fig. 1, elem. 10; where the height of an inner peripheral surface is measured from the rear of a medal insertion slot device to the front, where the device extends forward equally from either side wall projection, creating an equal angle between the forward end of an inner projection and either side wall projection).

Regarding Claim 5, Sugimoto discloses a gaming machine wherein an angle between the horizontal line and a line connecting a top of one of the projection parts and a bottom of the one of the projection parts is configured to be smaller than an angle between the horizontal line and a line connecting a top of the other projection part and a bottom of the other projection part (fig. 1, elem. 10; where one projection part may be at a lower height than another, which would form two separate angles from a horizontal reference line).

Regarding Claim 6.

(New) A gaming machine, comprising:

a game medium insertion slot having an opening for a player to insert a game medium for playing a game(fig. 1, elem. 10),

wherein the opening is formed so that the player can insert the game medium with both sides of the game medium substantially parallel with a front of the gaming machine,

wherein the game medium insertion slot includes a game medium guide projection projecting in a forward direction of the gaming machine and configured to guide the game medium to the opening(fig. 1, elem. 10),

wherein the game medium guide projection includes an inner peripheral part which is a circular arc in a cross section substantially parallel with the front of the gaming machine configured to be in contact with a part of an outer peripheral surface of the game medium and a pair of projection parts disposed away from each other and projecting on top of both ends of the inner peripheral part(fig. 1, elem. 10), and

wherein an angle γ between a ridgeline of one of the projection parts and a horizontal line is configured to be different from an angle β between a ridgeline of the other projection part and the horizontal line(fig. 1, elem 10; The "horizontal line" used for the claim as a reference in order to determine the different angles between the two ridgelines was not defined and was, thus, interpreted as broadly as allowed. The examiner has provided an illustration of the interpreted horizontal line below).

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Regarding Claim 7.

(New) The gaming machine as claimed in claim 6, wherein the angle γ between the ridgeline of the right projection part and the horizontal line is larger than the angle β between the ridgeline of the left projection part and the horizontal line for inserting the game medium with the right hand of the player. (fig. 1, elem 10; The "horizontal line" used for the claim as a reference in order to determine the different angles between the two ridgelines was not defined and was, thus, interpreted as broadly as allowed. The examiner has provided an illustration of the interpreted horizontal line below).

Regarding Claim 8.

(New) The gaming machine as claimed in claim 6, wherein the angle γ between the ridgeline of the left projection part and the horizontal line is larger than the angle β between the ridgeline of the right projection part and the horizontal line for inserting the game medium with the left hand of the player. (fig. 1, elem 10; The "horizontal line" used for the claim as a reference in order to determine the different angles between the two ridgelines was not defined and was, thus, interpreted as broadly as allowed. The examiner has provided an illustration of the interpreted horizontal line below).

Regarding Claim 9.

(New) The gaming machine as claimed in claim 6, wherein a height of a start point of the ridgeline of the one of the projection parts on a side of the opening is configured to be the same as a height of a start point of the ridgeline of the other projection part on

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the other projection part on a side of the opening.(fig. 1, elem 10; The "horizontal line" used for the claim as a reference in order to determine the different angles between the two ridgelines was not defined and was, thus, interpreted as broadly as allowed. The examiner has provided an illustration of the interpreted horizontal line below).

Regarding Claim 10.

(New) The gaming machine as claimed in claim 6, further comprising a frontward projection portion configured to fix the game medium insertion slot, wherein an angle α between an upper face of the frontward projection portion and the horizontal line is configured to be substantially equal to the angle β between the ridgeline of the other projection part and the horizontal line.(fig. 1, elem 10; The "horizontal line" used for the claim as a reference in order to determine the different angles between the two ridgelines was not defined and was, thus, interpreted as broadly as allowed. The examiner has provided an illustration of the interpreted horizontal line below).

Regarding Claim 11.

(New) The gaming machine as claimed in claim 6, wherein an angle Θ_R between the horizontal line and a line connecting a top of the one of the projection parts and a bottom of the one of the projection parts is configured to be smaller than an angle Θ_L between the horizontal line and a line connecting a top of the other projection part and a bottom of the other projection part,

wherein the respective tops and bottoms are located on respective sides of the respective projection pads.(fig. 1, elem 10; The "horizontal line" used for the claim as a reference in order to determine the different angles between the two ridgelines was not defined and was, thus, interpreted as broadly as allowed. The examiner has provided an illustration of the interpreted horizontal line below).

Regarding Claim 12.

(New) The gaming machine as claimed in claim 6, further comprising: a variable display device for variably displaying a plurality of symbols(fig. 1, elem 4, 5, 6); an internal lottery device configured to carry out an internal lottery of the game with a random number at a predetermined timing(fig. 3, elem 31); a stop control device configured to stop at least one of the symbols of the variable display device based on the result of the internal lottery carried out by the internal lottery device(fig. 1, elem. 20, 21, 22); and a game medium payout device configured to pay out the game medium to the player in a case where a stop state of the variable display device stopped by the stop control device corresponds to a predetermined stop state(Col 7, lines 8-16).

Regarding Claim 13.

(New) The gaming machine as claimed in claim 12, further comprising a plurality of types of operation devices (fig. 1, elem. 20, 21, 22) with which the player stops at least one of the symbols of the variable display(Col 5, lines 38-41),

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wherein the stop control device is configured to stop at least one of the symbols based on the internal lottery carried out by the internal lottery device and on a stop operation of each of the operation device(fig. 3, elem 31).

Regarding Claim 14.

(New) A gaming machine, comprising:

a game medium insertion slot having an opening for a player to insert a game medium

for playing a game(fig. 1, elem 10),

wherein the game medium insertion slot comprises a game medium guide projection projecting in a forward direction of the gaming machine and configured to guide the game medium to the opening,

wherein the game medium guide projection includes:

an inner peripheral part configured to be in contact with outer peripheral surface of the game medium; and

first and second projection parts disposed away from each other and projecting on top of both ends of the inner peripheral part,

wherein an angle γ between a ridgeline of the first projection part and a horizontal line is configured to be different from an angle β between a ridgeline of the second projection part and the horizontal line.(fig. 1, elem 10; The "horizontal line" used for the claim as a reference in order to determine the different angles between the two ridgelines was not defined and was, thus, interpreted as broadly as allowed. The examiner has provided an illustration of the interpreted horizontal line below),

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wherein the first projection part has a side surface that is curved downward along a widthwise direction of the gaming machine, and wherein an angle Θ_R between a line connecting a top and a bottom of the first projection part and the horizontal line is configured to be smaller than an angle Θ_L between a line connecting a top and a bottom of the second projection part and the horizontal line. (fig. 1, elem 10; In this case, a 3-dimensional view of fig. 1 clearly indicates how either projection parts have differing curved downward angles).

Regarding Claim 15.

(New) The gaming machine according to claim 14, wherein the second projection part has a side surface that is curved downward along the widthwise direction, and wherein the side surface of the first projection part has a part having a curvature smaller than that of the side surface of the second projection part in a plane perpendicular to the horizontal line and parallel to the widthwise direction. (fig. 1, elem 10; In this case, a 3-dimensional view of fig. 1 clearly indicates how either projection parts have differing curved downward angles).

Regarding Claim 16.

(New) The gaming machine according to claim 15, wherein the first projection part is disposed at a right side to the player with respect to the second projection part. (fig. 1, elem 10)

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Regarding Claim 17.

(New) The gaming machine according to claim 14, wherein the angle γ between the ridgeline of the first projection part and the horizontal line is configured to be larger than the angle β between the ridgeline of the second projection part and the horizontal line.(fig. 1, elem 10; The "horizontal line" used for the claim as a reference in order to determine the different angles between the two ridgelines was not defined and was, thus, interpreted as broadly as allowed. The examiner has provided an illustration of the interpreted horizontal line below).

Regarding Claim 18. (New) The gaming machine according to claim 14, wherein a height of the ridgeline of the first projection part at an end near to the opening is configured to be same with a height of the ridgeline of the second projection part at an end near to the opening.(fig. 1, elem 10; The "horizontal line" used for the claim as a reference in order to determine the different angles between the two ridgelines was not defined and was, thus, interpreted as broadly as allowed. The examiner has provided an illustration of the interpreted horizontal line below).

Regarding Claim 19. (New) The gaming machine according to claim 14 further comprising a frontward projection portion on which the game medium insertion slot is mounted, wherein an angle α between an upper surface of the frontward projection portion and the horizontal line is configured to be substantially same with the angle β between the ridgeline of the second projection part and the horizontal line(fig. 1, elem

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10; The "horizontal line" used for the claim as a reference in order to determine the different angles between the two ridgelines was not defined and was, thus, interpreted as broadly as allowed. The examiner has provided an illustration of the interpreted horizontal line below).

Regarding Claim 20. (New) A gaming machine, comprising:

a game medium insertion slot having an opening for a player to insert a game medium for playing a game(fig. 1, elem. 10); and

a frontward projection portion on which the game medium insertion slot is mounted, wherein the game medium insertion slot comprises a game medium guide projection

projecting in a forward direction of the gaming machine and configured to guide the game medium to the opening, wherein the game medium guide projection includes:

an inner peripheral part configured to be in contact with outer peripheral surface of the game medium; and first and second projection parts disposed away from each other and projecting on top of both ends of the inner peripheral part(fig. 1, elem. 10),

wherein the first projection part is disposed at a right side to the player with respect to the second projection part,

wherein an angle γ between a ridgeline of the first projection part and a horizontal line is configured to be larger than an angle θ between a ridgeline of the second projection part and the horizontal line, wherein a height of the ridgeline of the first projection part at an end near to the opening is configured to be same with a height of the ridgeline of the second projection part at an end near to the opening,

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wherein the first projection part has a side surface that is curved downward along a widthwise direction of the gaming machine, wherein the second projection part has a side surface that is curved downward along the widthwise direction, wherein the side surface of the first projection part has a part having a curvature smaller than that of the side surface of the second projection part in a plane perpendicular to the horizontal line and parallel to the widthwise direction, wherein an angle Θ_R between a line connecting a top and a bottom of the first projection part and the horizontal line is configured to be smaller than an angle Θ_L between a line connecting a top and a bottom of the second projection part and the horizontal line, and wherein an angle α between an upper surface of the frontward projection portion and the horizontal line is configured to be substantially same with the angle β between the ridgeline of the second projection part and the horizontal line. (fig. 1, elem 10; The "horizontal line" used for the claim as a reference in order to determine the different angles between the two ridgelines was not defined and was, thus, interpreted as broadly as allowed. The examiner has provided an illustration of the interpreted horizontal line below).

Regarding Claim 21.

(New) The gaming machine according to claim 20, wherein the second projection part has a side surface that is curved downward along the widthwise direction, and wherein the side surface of the first projection part has a part having a curvature smaller than that of the side surface of the second projection part in a plane perpendicular to the horizontal line and parallel to the widthwise direction. (fig. 1, elem 10; The "horizontal

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line” used for the claim as a reference in order to determine the different angles between the two ridgelines was not defined and was, thus, interpreted as broadly as allowed. The examiner has provided an illustration of the interpreted horizontal line below).

Regarding Claim 22.

(New) The gaming machine according to claim 21, wherein the first projection part is disposed at a right side to the player with respect to the second projection part. (fig. 1, elem. 10)

Regarding Claim 23.

(New) The gaming machine according to claim 20, wherein the angle γ between the ridgeline of the first projection part and the horizontal line is configured to be larger than the angle β between the ridgeline of the second projection part and the horizontal line. (fig. 1, elem 10; The “horizontal line” used for the claim as a reference in order to determine the different angles between the two ridgelines was not defined and was, thus, interpreted as broadly as allowed. The examiner has provided an illustration of the interpreted horizontal line below).

Regarding Claim 24.

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(New) The gaming machine according to claim 20, wherein a height of the ridgeline of the first projection part at an end near to the opening is configured to be same with a height of the ridgeline of the second projection part at an end near to the opening. (fig. 1, elem. 10)

Regarding Claim 25.

(New) The gaming machine according to claim 20 further comprising a frontward projection portion on which the game medium insertion slot is mounted, wherein an angle alpha between an upper surface of the frontward projection portion and the horizontal line is configured to be substantially same with the angle beta between the ridgeline of the second projection part and the horizontal line. (fig. 1, elem 10; The "horizontal line" used for the claim as a reference in order to determine the different angles between the two ridgelines was not defined and was, thus, interpreted as broadly as allowed. The examiner has provided an illustration of the interpreted horizontal line below).

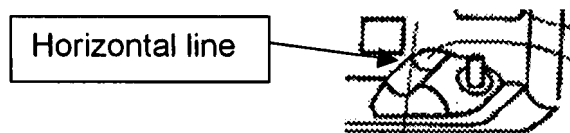


Illustration of the interpreted 'Horizontal Line'. Note: Image was taken from fig. 1 of US

Patent 6,287,195 B1 to Sugimoto et al.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 2/20/2007 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicant alleges A) that Sugimoto fails to teach an angle between a ridgeline of one of the projection parts and a horizontal line is configured to be different from an angle between a ridgeline of the other projection part and the horizontal line as recited in claim 1, B) that Sugimoto fails to show that the angle between the ridgeline of one of the projection parts and the horizontal line is larger than the angle between the ridgeline of the other projection part and the horizontal line, C) that Sugimoto fails to show that a height of a start point of the ridgeline of one of the projection parts on a side of the opening is configured to be the same as a height of a start point of the ridgeline of the other projection part on the other projection part on a side of the opening, D) that Sugimoto fails to show that an angle between the horizontal line and a line connecting a top of one of the projection parts and a bottom of the one of the projection parts is configured to be smaller than an angle between the horizontal line and a line connecting a top of the other projection part and a bottom of the other projection part.

Regarding A) The "horizontal line" used for Claim 1 as a reference in order to determine the different angles between the two ridgelines was not defined and was, thus, interpreted as broadly as allowed. The examiner has provided an illustration of the interpreted horizontal line. Using the illustrated horizontal line below with the coin inlet of the reference provided clearly shows that the ridgeline of one of the projections has a different angle as the ridgeline of the other projection.

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Regarding B) The "horizontal line" used for Claim 1 as a reference in order to determine the different angles between the two ridgelines was not defined and was, thus, interpreted as broadly as allowed. The examiner has provided an illustration of the interpreted horizontal line. Using the illustrated horizontal line below with the coin inlet of the reference provided clearly shows that the angle between the ridgeline of one of the projection parts and the horizontal line is larger than the angle between the ridgeline of the other projection part and the horizontal line.

Regarding C) The "horizontal line" used for Claim 1 as a reference in order to determine the different angles between the two ridgelines was not defined and was, thus, interpreted as broadly as allowed. The examiner has provided an illustration of the interpreted horizontal line. Using the illustrated horizontal line below with the coin inlet of the reference provided clearly show that a height of a start point of the ridgeline of one of the projection parts on a side of the opening is configured to be the same as a height of a start point of the ridgeline of the other projection part on the other projection part on a side of the opening.

Regarding D) The "horizontal line" used for Claim 1 as a reference in order to determine the different angles between the two ridgelines was not defined and was, thus, interpreted as broadly as allowed. The examiner has provided an illustration of the interpreted horizontal line. Using the illustrated horizontal line below with the coin inlet of

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the reference provided clearly show that an angle between the horizontal line and a line connecting a top of one of the projection parts and a bottom of the one of the projection parts is configured to be smaller than an angle between the horizontal line and a line connecting a top of the other projection part and a bottom of the other projection part.

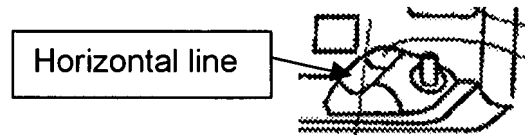


Illustration of the interpreted 'Horizontal Line'. Note: Image was taken from fig. 1 of US

Patent 6,287,195 B1 to Sugimoto et al.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

M. L. Grant, US Patent 2,774,533. Coin Collecting Device

Perkitny, US Patent 6,638,157 B2. Five Coin Bank

Cole, US Patent 5,967,287. Internally mounted, externally lockable and removable coin comparator mounting device for video vending machines and the like

D. L. Chandler, US Patent 1,619,654. Fraud preventing device.

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP

§ 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37

CFR 1.136(a).

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A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jeffrey K. Wong whose telephone number is (571)270-3003. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Th 8:30am-7:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Hotaling can be reached on (571)272-4437. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

JKW



JOHN M. HOTALING, II
PRIMARY EXAMINER